

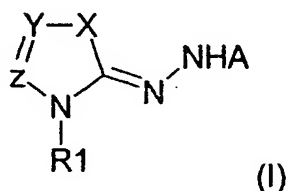
In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 17 and add the following claims 18 to 34:

Claims 1 to 17.(canceled)

18.(new) A ready-to-use agent for coloring keratin fibers, wherein said ready-to-use agent contains:

(a) at least one hydrazone derivative of formula (I), or a physiologically compatible salt thereof:



wherein **X** denotes oxygen, sulfur or N-**R2**,

Y denotes C-**R3** or nitrogen, and

Z denotes C-**R4** or nitrogen,

provided that a heterocyclic ring in said at least one hydrazone derivative contains at the most three hetero atoms;

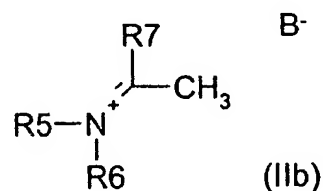
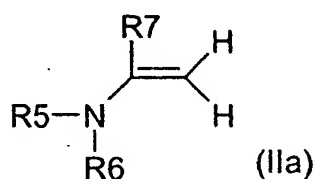
A denotes hydrogen, an acetyl group, a trifluoroacetyl group, a formyl group, a (C₁ - C₆)-alkyl-sulfonyl group, or an arylsulfonyl group;

R1 and **R2** are the same or different and, independently of each other, denote a saturated or unsaturated (C₁ - C₁₂)-alkyl group, a halogen-substituted (C₁ - C₁₂)-alkyl group, a hydroxy-(C₁ - C₁₂)-alkyl group, an amino-(C₁ - C₁₂)-alkyl group, a sulfonic acid-(C₁ - C₁₂)-alkyl group, a formyl group,

a -C(O)-(C₁ - C₁₂)-alkyl group, a -C(O)-phenyl group, a -C(O)NH-(C₁ -C₁₂)-alkyl group, a -C(O)NH-phenyl group, a phenyl group, or a benzyl group;

R3 and **R4** can be the same or different and, independently of each other, denote hydrogen, a halogen atom, a saturated or unsaturated (C₁ -C₁₂)-alkyl group, a halogen-substituted (C₁ -C₁₂)-alkyl group, a hydroxy-(C₁ -C₁₂)-alkyl group, a (C₁ -C₁₂)-alkoxy group, a cyano group, a nitro group, an amino group, a (C₁ -C₁₂)-alkylamino group, a di(C₁ -C₁₂)-alkylamino group, a carboxyl group, a -C(O)O-(C₁ -C₁₂)-alkyl group, a -C(O)O-phenyl group, a phenyl group, or a naphthyl group; and when **Y** and **Z** denote C-**R3** and C-**R4**, **R3** and **R4** together with a remainder of the hydrazone derivative can form a heterocyclic, carbocyclic, saturated or unsaturated ring system;

(b) at least one aromatic enamine of formula (IIa), or an acid addition salt thereof of formula (IIb):



wherein

R5 denotes a mononuclear or polynuclear aromatic group,

R6 denotes a (C₁ -C₁₂)-alkyl group, a monohydroxy-(C₁ -C₁₂)-alkyl group, or a mono-(C₁ -C₆)-alkoxy-(C₁ -C₆)-alkyl group, wherein oxygen atoms can be present between carbon atoms of the alkyl group, and

R7 denotes a (C₁ -C₁₂)-alkyl group, a mono-(C₁ -C₆)-alkoxy-(C₁ -C₆)-alkyl group, a (C₁ -C₆)-alkylene-(C₁ -C₆) group, a (C₁-C₆)-alkoxy-(C₁ -C₆)-alkylene group, -O-, **NR8-** or -S-;

wherein **R8** denotes a (C₁ -C₁₂)-alkyl group, a mono-(C₁-C₆)-alkoxy-(C₁ -C₆)-alkyl group, a monohydroxy-(C₁ -C₁₂)-alkyl group, or hydrogen, and

wherein **R5** and **R7** together with a nitrogen atom and a carbon atom of the aromatic enamine or the acid addition salt thereof form a cyclic linkage, and

B⁻ denotes an anion of an organic or inorganic acid; and

(c) at least one oxidant.

19.(new) The agent as defined in claim 18, wherein **X** denotes sulfur, **Y** denotes C-R3, **Z** denotes C-**R4** and **A** denotes hydrogen.

20.(new) The agent as defined in claim 18, wherein said at least one hydrazone derivative of the formula (I) is selected from the group consisting of 3-methyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 3,4-dimethyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 4-tert.butyl-3-methyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 3-methyl-4-phenyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 3-methyl-4-(4-tolyl)-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 4-(4-methoxy)phenyl-3-methyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 4-(4-ethoxy)phenyl-3-methyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 4-(4-bromophenyl)-3-methyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 4-(3-bromophenyl)-3-methyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 4-(3-chlorophenyl)-

3-methyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 3-methyl-4-(4-nitrophenyl)-2(3H)-
 thiazolone hydrazone; 3-methyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-2(3H)thiazolone hydrazone;
 4-[(1,1'-biphenyl)-4-yl]-3-methyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; ethyl 2-hydrazono-
 2,3-dihydro-3-methyl-4-thiazole-carboxylate; 3,4,5-trimethyl-2(3H)-thiazolone
 hydrazone; 3,4-dimethyl-5-phenyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 3,5-dimethyl-
 4-phenyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 4,5-diphenyl-3-methyl-2(3H)-thiazolone
 hydrazone; 5-ethyl-3-methyl-4-phenyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 4-(4-bromo-
 phenyl)-3-methyl-5-phenyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 3-methyl-5-phenyl-
 4-(4-tolyl)-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-phenyl-3-methyl-
 2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-
 2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; ethyl 2-hydrazono-2,3-dihydro-3,4-dimethyl-
 4-thiazole carboxylate; 4-amino-2-hydrazono-2, 3-dihydro-3-methyl-5-thiazole
 carbonitrile; 4,5-dimethyl-3-ethyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; ethyl 2-hydrazono-
 2,3-dihydro-3-ethyl-4-methyl-thiazolecarboxylate; 5-methyl-3-(1-methylethyl)-
 4-phenyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 4,5-diphenyl-3-(1-methylethyl)-2(3H)-
 thiazolone hydrazone; 4,5-diphenyl-3-propyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone;
 3-butyl-4, 5-diphenyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 4,5-diphenyl-3-(2-methyl-
 propyl)-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 3-(2-propenyl)-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone;
 4-methyl-3-(2-propenyl)-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 4-tert.-butyl-3-(2-propenyl)-
 2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 4-phenyl-3-(2-propenyl)-2(3H)-thiazolone
 hydrazone; 4,5-diphenyl-3-(2-propenyl)-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone;
 3-hydroxyethyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 3-hydroxyethyl-4-methyl-2(3H)-
 thiazolone hydrazone; 3-aminoethyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 3-aminoethyl-

4-methyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 3-phenyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone;
 4-methyl-3-phenyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 3,4-diphenyl-2(3H)-thiazolone
 hydrazone; 4-p-biphenyl-3-phenyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 4-(4-methoxy)-
 phenyl-3-phenyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 4-tert.butyl-3-phenyl-2(3H)-
 thiazolone hydrazone; 3,4-diphenyl-5-methyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone;
 3,4,5-triphenyl-2(3H)-thiazolone hydrazone; 4,5-dimethyl-3-(phenylmethyl)-2(3H)-
 thiazolone hydrazone; ethyl 2-hydrazono-2,3-dihydro-3-[(phenylamino)carbonyl]-
 4-methylthiazolecarboxylate; 3-methyl-4, 5, 6, 7-tetrahydro-2(3H)-benzo-
 thiazolone hydrazone; 3-methyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 3,6-dimethyl-
 2(3H)benzo-thiazolone hydrazone; 6-chloro-3-methyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone
 hydrazone; 7-chloro-3-methyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 6-hydroxy-
 3-methyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 5-methoxy-3-methyl-2(3H)benzo-
 thiazolone hydrazone; 7-methoxy-3-methyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone;
 5,6-dimethoxy-3-methyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 5-ethoxy-3-methyl-
 2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 6-ethoxy-3-methyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone
 hydrazone; 3-methyl-5-nitro-2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 3-methyl-6-nitro-
 2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 5-acetamido-3-methyl-2(3H)benzo-thiazolone
 hydrazone; 6-acetamido-3-methyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 5-anilino-
 3-methyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 6-anilino-3-methyl-2(3H)benzo-
 thiazolone hydrazone; 2-hydrazono-2,3-dihydro-3-methyl-6-benzothiazole
 carboxylic acid; 2-hydrazono-2,3-dihydro-3-methyl-4-benzothiazole sulfonic acid,
 2-hydrazono-2,3-dihydro-3-methyl-5-benzothiazole sulfonic acid; 2-hydrazono-
 2,3-dihydro-3-methyl-6-benzothiazole sulfonic acid; 2-hydrazono-2,3-dihydro-

3-methyl-7-benzothiazole sulfonic acid; 2-hydrazono-2,3-dihydro-N,N,3-trimethyl-6-benzothiazole sulfonamide; [(2-hydrazono-2,3-dihydro-3-methyl-6-benzothiazolyl)oxy]-acetic acid hydrazide; 3-methylnaphtho-[2,3-d]-thiazol-2(3H)one hydrazone; 3-ethyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 6-ethoxy-3-ethyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 3-propyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 3-butyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 3-hexyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 3-hydroxyethyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 3-aminoethyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 3-p-methylbenzyl-2(3H)benzothiazolone hydrazone; 2-hydrazono-2,3-dihydro-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-6-benzothiazole carboxylic acid; 2-hydrazono-2,3-dihydro-6-methoxy-3(2H)benzothiazole propanesulfonic acid; 6-hexadecyloxy-2-hydrazono-3(2H)benzothiazole propanesulfonic acid; ethyl 2-keto-3-benzothiazoline acetate hydrazone; 3-acetyl-2(3H)-benzothiazolone hydrazone; and 2-hydrazono-3(2H)benzothiazole carboxaldehyde.

21.(new) The agent as defined in claim 18, where in the formula (IIa)/(IIb) R5 and R7 together with the nitrogen atom and the carbon atom of the aromatic enamine or the acid addition salt thereof form the cyclic linkage.

22.(new) The agent as defined in claim 21, wherein R7 is linked to the aromatic R5 group with a carbon atom thereof standing in an ortho-position in relation to the carbon atom of the aromatic enamine or the acid addition salt thereof.

23.(new) The agent as defined in claim 18, wherein the at least one acid addition salt of the formula (IIb) is selected from the group consisting of

1,2,3,3-tetramethyl-3H-indolium chloride; 1,2,3,3-tetramethyl-3H-indolium bromide; 1,2,3,3-tetramethyl-3H-indolium hydrogen sulfate; 1,2,3,3-tetramethyl-3H-indolium sulfate; 1,2,3,3-tetramethyl-3H-indolium tetrafluoroborate;

3-ethyl-1,2,3-trimethyl-3H-indolium chloride; 3-ethyl-1,2,3-trimethyl-3H-indolium bromide; 3-ethyl-1,2,3-trimethyl-3H-indolium sulfate; 3-ethyl-1,2,3-trimethyl-3H-indolium tetrafluoroborate; 1-ethyl-5-methoxy-2,3,3-trimethyl-3H-indolium chloride; 1-ethyl-5-methoxy-2,3,3-trimethyl-3H-indolium bromide;

1-ethyl-5-methoxy-2,3,3-trimethyl-3H-indolium sulfate; 1-ethyl-5-methoxy-2,3,3-trimethyl-3H-indolium tetrafluoroborate; 5-methoxy-1,2,3,3-tetramethyl-3H-indolium chloride; 5-methoxy-1,2,3,3-tetramethyl-3H-indolium bromide;

5-methoxy-1,2,3,3-tetramethyl-3H-indolium sulfate; 5-methoxy-1,2,3,3-tetramethyl-3H-indolium tetrafluoroborate; 5-nitro-1,2,3,3-tetramethyl-3H-indolium chloride; 5-nitro-1,2,3,3-tetramethyl-3H-indolium bromide, 5-nitro-1,2,3,3-tetramethyl-3H-indolium sulfate; 5-nitro-1,2,3,3-tetramethyl-3H-indolium tetrafluoroborate; 2,3-dimethylbenzothiazolium chloride; 2,3-dimethylbenzothiazolium bromide; 2,3-dimethylbenzothiazolium iodide; 2,3-dimethylbenzothiazolium methylsulfate; 3-ethyl-2-methylbenzothiazolium chloride; 3-ethyl-2-methylbenzothiazolium bromide; 3-ethyl-2-methylbenzothiazolium iodide; 3-ethyl-2-methylbenzothiazolium methylsulfate; and 3-ethyl-2-methylbenzothiazolium p-toluene sulfonate.

24.(new) The agent as defined in claim 18, wherein said at least one oxidant is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, addition compounds of hydrogen peroxide, persalts, peracids, and enzymatic oxidation systems.

25.(new) The agent as defined in claim 18, wherein said at least one oxidant is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, addition products of hydrogen peroxide, and persalts.

26.(new) The agent as defined in claim 18, containing each of the at least one hydrazone derivative of formula (I), the at least one aromatic enamine of the formula (IIa) or acid addition salt thereof of formula (IIb), and the at least one oxidant in a total amount from 0.01 to 10 weight percent.

27.(new) The agent as defined in claim 18, further comprising from 0.01 to 10 weight percent of a physiologically harmless direct dye and wherein said direct dye is selected from the group consisting of cationic dyes, anionic dyes, disperse dyes, nitro dyes, azo dyes, quinone dyes, and triphenylmethane dyes.

28.(new) The agent as defined in claim 18, having a pH from 7 to 11.

29.(new) The agent as defined in claim 18, consisting of a hair colorant.

30.(new) A two-component kit consisting of one dye carrier composition (A1) and another dye carrier composition (A2), which is separate from the one dye carrier composition (A1);

wherein said one dye carrier composition (A1) contains the at least one hydrazone derivative of the formula (I) as defined in claim 18 and said another dye carrier composition (A2) contains an oxidant and the at least one aromatic enamine of the formula (IIa) or acid addition salt thereof of the formula (IIb) as defined in claim 18.

31.(new) A three-component kit consisting of one dye carrier composition (A1), another dye carrier composition (A2), and a third component separate from each other;

wherein said one dye carrier composition (A1) contains the at least one hydrazone derivative of the formula (I) as defined in claim 18, said another dye carrier composition (A2) contains an oxidant and the at least one aromatic enamine of the formula (IIa) or acid addition salt thereof of the formula (IIb) as defined in claim 18, and said third component contains an agent for adjusting pH.

32.(new) A two-component kit consisting of a powdered dye carrier composition (A1) and a liquid cosmetic preparation (A2) separate from each other, and

wherein said powdered dye carrier composition (A1) contains an oxidant, the at least one hydrazone derivative of the formula (I) as defined in claim 18, and the at least one aromatic enamine of the formula (IIa) or acid addition salt

thereof of the formula (IIb) as defined in claim 18, as well as optionally other powdered cosmetic additive ingredients.

33.(new) A three-component kit consisting of one dye carrier composition (A1), another dye carrier composition (A2), and a third component separate from each other;

wherein said one dye carrier composition (A1) contains the at least one hydrazone derivative of the formula (I) as defined in claim 18, said another dye carrier composition (A2) contains the at least one aromatic enamine of the formula (IIa) or acid addition salt thereof of the formula (IIb) as defined in claim 18, and said third component contains an oxidant.

34.(new) A method for coloring hair, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) applying a colorant to the hair;
- b) allowing the colorant applied in step a) to act on the hair for an acting time of from 5 to 60 minutes at a temperature from 20 to 50°C; and
- c) after the acting time has elapsed, rinsing the hair with water, optionally washing the hair with a shampoo and then drying the hair;

wherein said colorant is the ready-to-use agent for coloring as defined in claim 18.